

THE CALEDONIAN.

BY A. G. CHADWICK.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

From the London Courier of 19th August.
ACCOUNT OF THE CREW OF THE STIRLING CASTLE.

Yesterday Mrs. Eliza Ann Frazer, the widow of Captain Frazer, of the ship *Stirling Castle*, which was wrecked on a coral reef in the passage from Sydney to Singapore, in May 1835, came to the Mansion-house, accompanied by the captain of the vessel in which she arrived in this country, and a female at whose house she was received upon coming to London, for the purpose of mentioning the particulars of her dreadful adventures amongst the inhabitants of the shores to which the crew resorted as a refuge from the not more appalling dangers of the ocean.

On the 16th of May, 1835, the *Stirling Castle* left Sydney for the purpose of going to Singapore. On the 21, when they were approaching Torres Straits it blew very fresh, and there being a current near the Eliza Coral Reefs, which the vessel was unable to resist, she struck on the reefs about nine o'clock at night, when the captain was incapable, on account of the heavy weather, of making observations. There were about eighteen men on board, two boys, and Mrs. Frazer, the Captain's wife. Two of the men who were at the wheel were killed when the ship struck, and the cabins were dashed into the hold, together with all the bread, beef, pork, and other provisions. The crew, when the tempest ceased, contrived to cut away the masts, and she did in some degree change her position, but not to any serviceable extent; they therefore determined to get away as well as they could in the longboat and the pinnace, which they had contrived to keep secure, the two other boats which were attached to the ship having been swept away by the fury of the elements. They knew that they were to the northward of Moreton bay, a portion of the settlements of the English Crown, and they determined to make for that place. Accordingly, having worked with the most desperate industry until four o'clock on Sunday, they quitted the vessel and took to the boats.

The ship's carpenter, the cook, the cook's mate, J. Frazer, the Captain's nephew, the boatswain, E. Stone, and Bill Lorton, a seaman, took to the pinnace; while the Captain, his wife, the Chief Mate, the Second Mate, the two boys, and the rest of the crew, took to the longboat. Four days after they committed themselves to the care of Providence, Mrs. Frazer was delivered of a child, while up to her waist in water, in the long boat. The infant was born alive, but after a few gasps was drowned, and the chief mate wrapped up the body in a part of his shirt, which he tore from his back for the purpose, and let it go along with the tide. The poor mother could not account for the extraordinary vigor with which she was able to bear up against the calamity, added to the other calamities to which she was doomed to be exposed. Fortunately she was for some time in a state of insensibility and was not for a considerable time after the child was consigned to the deep, aware that it was brought into the world from which it was so rapidly hurried away. For a great many days they endeavored in vain to reach Moreton Bay, being all the time without any food except a small quantity of the lees of hops which they had found in a cask. They suffered dreadfully from thirst as well as hunger while in this awful situation. At last they reached a large rock, to which they fastened their boats, and they went in quest of oysters and water, but their disappointments were multiplied upon them, and they stretched themselves along in expectation of a speedy release from their sufferings by the interposition of another tempest. In the morning those who belonged to the long-boat were astonished to find the pinnace and the men who had occupied her had altogether disappeared. These unfortunate fellows were never heard of more, and their comrades in calamity could not conjecture what their motive could be for making an experiment by themselves without the aid of the experience of the captain and mates, whom they left behind.

The Captain's aim was, all along, after they had been obliged to quit the ship, to reach Moreton Bay, but finding that the wind and current were dead against his object, and his companions being reduced to the extremity of lying on their backs in the boat with their tongues out to catch the dew that fell, he resolved to make for the nearest land. It was a choice of most awful evils, for he knew that the shore, which it was probable they would reach was visited by tribes of savages. They bore away before the wind, prepared to meet death in whatever shape it might present itself, and as exhausted with sufferings as to be careless whether they were to die by the hands of the natives, or to be overwhelmed in the waves. At last they came within sight of land, and soon afterwards their boat ran into and landed in a place called Wide Bay. They were now about 100 miles to the north of Moreton Bay, which is the principal of the penal settlements to which the incorrigible convicts are sent to pass the remainder of their days in uninterrupted labor; and just as they touched the land they caught the sight of vast crowds of naked savages, who soon approached the beach, evidently delighted with the prize that presented itself. The savages surrounded the boat, and, raising it up, carried it up from the beach to the bush, with its crew, just as they were. The moment they laid the boat on the ground, they began to strip the men of their clothes, commencing with the captain and chief officers. John Baxter, the second mate, endeavored to hide a shirt ornament in which his aunt's hair was contained, having willingly yielded up every thing else; but the savages became infuriated at the attempt at concealment, and beat him dreadfully. It is unnecessary to say that they tore the trinket away from him. They broke in pieces the watches and chronometers, and each took a portion of the

machinery to stick in their noses and ears, and after they had divided amongst themselves the various portions of apparel of which they had stripped their captives, they threw to them, to appease their hunger, the heads and entrails of the fish upon which they had been lately making their meal. The savages, after having detained them two days, took them further up in the bush, and drove them onward, that they might, as they soon ascertained, fall into the hands of other tribes, by whom an ingenious variety was to be given to their sufferings. The captain had endeavored to prevail upon them to accept the services of the poor crew for a longer time, being apprehensive that any change amongst the natives would be for the worse; but they beat all the now naked whites on before them until fresh tribes came up and took each of them a prisoner, and set him to work in carrying pieces of trees and toiling in other ways.

Mrs. Frazer, being the only woman, was not selected by any of the tribes, but was left by herself, while they went onward; but her husband got an opportunity to mention to her not to stir from the place in which she was at that moment, and that he would contrive to see her in a few hours. During that night she lay on the clefts of a rock, and in the morning, after looking about without seeing a creature, she determined to follow some foot-marks, and after having proceeded to some distance, she saw a crowd of black women approach. These, however, belonged to the tribe of savages by whom her husband had been taken up into the bush on cutting wood and lighting fires. Being quite naked, and presenting a contrast in her skin which the women did not like, she was compelled by them to rub herself all over with gum and herbs, which had the effect of making her nearly as dark as themselves. They likewise tattooed her all over, and having pulled her hair out, and stuck the feathers of parrots and birds all over it. One of the women having two children, obliged her to nurse one of them, notwithstanding the severe labor she had to perform, and if the child was out of temper the nurse was kicked and scratched, and thumped for its peevishness. At the expiration of four days Mrs. Frazer saw her husband for the first time since their separation. He was dragging along a tree, and was greatly fatigued. She had just begun to inquire how it happened that he did not manage to let her know where he was, to which he replied that he dared not look for her, when his tribe suddenly appeared; one of them having seen them together, made a push at the Captain with a spear, and pierced him through the body, and he fell dead in an instant. Mrs. Frazer ran to her husband, and pulled the spear out of the body, but the breath was gone forever. She then fell senseless and remained so for a considerable time, and when she recovered her senses she found herself along with the tribe, which she was obliged to serve; but what became of the body of Captain Frazer she never could learn. Shortly after this catastrophe, the first officer of the ship having been informed that the Captain had been murdered by one of the tribes, formed, in a fit of desperation, a plan of revenge, fretted, and exhausted with labor as he was. This intention was, however, discovered, and horrible was his punishment. Mrs. Frazer had just lighted a fire by order of her tribe, and the unfortunate man's legs were thrust into it and consumed, while he, by the violence of his contortions, actually worked for the rest of his body a grave in the sand in which it was imbedded.

Two days after this horrible event, a fine looking young man, named James Major, was disposed of. Capt. Frazer, who knew a good deal of the character and habits of the natives on this coast, had mentioned to Major that the savages would take off his head for a figure bust for one of their canoes. It seemed too, that it was usual for the savage who contemplated that sort of execution to smile in the face of his victim immediately before he struck him to the earth. While Major was at work, the chief of his tribe approached him smilingly, and tapped him on the shoulder. At that instant the poor fellow received a blow on the back of the neck from a waddy, or crooked stick, which stunned him. He fell to the ground, and a couple of savages set to work, and by means of sharpened shells, severed the head from the body, with frightful exclamations. They then ate a part of the body, and preserved the head with certain gums, and affixed it as a figure bust to one of their canoes. The rest of the crew of course expected nothing less than death. Two of the seamen, named Doyle and Big Ben, contrived to steal a canoe, and endeavored to cross to an island, but were drowned in the attempt.

There was a black man named Joseph, who had been steward on board the *Stirling Castle*. When the savages seized the long boat in which the crew had entered Wide Bay, they stripped this Joseph as well as the rest, but as he was of their own color, they inflicted no punishment upon him, and he had the privilege of going about, which was denied to any other of the wretched strangers. This man, who was constantly watching for an opportunity to escape, had assured Mrs. Frazer that if he could get away, the first life that he should think of saving should be that of his mistress. He succeeded in stealing a canoe, in which he roved off, and in six weeks he reached Moreton Bay, where he informed the Commandant of the penal settlement of the horrid circumstances which had taken place at Wide Bay, and of the servitude in which the survivors of the crew were detained. By this time Mrs. Frazer was separated and at a considerable distance from the different members of the crew, and she had given up all hopes of being liberated from the frightful bondage in which she was detained.

The Moreton Bay Commandant inquired in the barracks whether any of the military would volunteer to save a lady and several of the crew of the wrecked vessel from the savages in the bush, and a number offered their services at a moment's notice. By a system of manoeuvring entered into by a convict who had been for several years in the bush among the savages, the object was effected. All the survivors, Mrs. Frazer believes, were rescued from the savages.

At the camp, the commandant and the commissary, and in fact all the individuals who were in the service of the government treated Mrs. F. and her companions in misfortune with a degree of kindness which it is evident the former has a very warm recollection of. She was placed un-

der medical care immediately, and every thing that was considered likely to abate the sense of what she had undergone, in witnessing the murder of her husband and the other horrors with which she had been surrounded, was done.

The captain of the Mediterranean packet, in which Mrs. Frazer arrived at Liverpool, stated that he was at Sydney at the time of the arrival of that lady, and that the circumstances detailed caused the greatest excitement there. The convict to whose extraordinary exertions Mrs. Frazer owed her escape, obtained a free pardon from the government there, and a reward of thirty guineas.

The Lord Mayor asked what were the circumstances of Mrs. Frazer. He was convinced that if she were in necessity the ladies in London, who were constantly looking for such objects, would speedily relieve her.

The captain said that the unfortunate lady was not mistress of a farthing. The clothes on her back had been given to her by the commandant's wife; and Captain Frazer had been the sole support of her and three children, who were in the Orkney Islands, to which she was anxious to go as soon as possible. She was lame, had almost lost the use of one arm, and the sight of one eye, by the severity of the inflictions to which she had been subjected.

The Lord Mayor.—I shall most willingly receive contributions for her benefit, and I am sure that the call will be soon answered. I never heard of any thing so dreadful in all my experience.

THE WAY IS OPEN TO ALL.

Miss Martineau, in her recent work on this country, says that the only unhappy young gentlemen in our Northern States, are those who are born to fortune. Well, there is more truth than poetry in this. Let those who have no other fortune than their hands think of it. There is a free road open to them. Almost every great name that has adorned the world, has been won by personal effort—unaided by the fortuitous power of wealth, or mushroom force of birth. Young men of our country! go up this road. Go up it by the force of your own exertions, for you will never ascend by any other. Rely upon nothing else, for all else may fail you.

To our contemplation there is no spectacle more worthy of admiration, than a virtuous young man, advancing himself in the esteem of the good and worthy, by his own exertions. His industry is unceasing—his deportment modest and unassuming. His principles are fixed—his integrity unflinching. He practices the cardinal virtues for the love of them—and others love him for their practice. He should meet kindness on every hand. Mankind are interested in his success, for he may become the depository of the power which our fathers exercise. He may sit in the high places—giving laws to the country and wisdom to the age.

We would not destroy the hey-day of youth. There is a natural buoyancy to youth, that should be indulged. But it should be cherished only in useful, innocent, refined amusements. Amid the intelligent society of virtuous females, young men should seek relaxation from the cares of the counting house, and the toils of the work-shop. Here will their affections be purified, their manners refined.

Young man, shun as you would the plague, those who deride the society of virtuous females. There is a moral pestilence in the atmosphere they breathe. If they loved virtue, they would love virtuous society. It is sure proof that they know themselves too well to enter where virtue and refinement alone diffuse their refulgent light. Seek society above yourself, but enter not that which is beneath you, either in intelligence, refinement or virtue.

More young men are ruined, in our cities, by bad associations, than from all other causes combined. When the novice enters a *colerie*, he soon catches the prevailing spirit. If drinking and carousing prevail, he drinks and carouses. He will not be laughed at because he cannot swallow as much wine as his fellows, and if they partake of "the strong drink that maketh mad," he shows his strength of head in swallowing the same potations. If others gamble, he gambles. As they descend to the lowest vices, in the spirit of *bravado*, he sinks down with them—to the very depths of pollution—until he hangs upon society a pest and a nuisance, instead of an honor and an ornament, as he might have been, had he not met ruin in the bewildering, contaminating, blighting influences of pernicious associations.

When we behold a young man capable of resisting all such temptations, we watch his steps in profound admiration. We look upon him as a bright promise to human liberty. Morality shall hail him as her champion. Religion will exult in his defence. He shall sit in the high places of the Republic—and his name shall endure.

When monumental marble
Hath crumbled with its scroll,

ALIENS IN NEW YORK. The N. Y. Mercantile states that according to the report of the Commissioners of the Alms House, Bridewell and Penitentiary, there are now in those institutions, 3332 inmates—having increased 1005 within the past year. There are now 2045 foreigners, a charge upon that city—and many of the children classed as natives, are born of foreign parents, shortly after their arrival here. The increase of foreign inmates during the past year is eighty-eight per cent or fifteen foreigners to two natives—proving conclusively that in cases of distress, they are the first to realize its effects, and become a charge upon the city.

OX OLYMPUS.

MR. WARLAND.—This animal certainly deserves a passing notice. Having understood it was about to be taken from this place to Hartford and elsewhere, I called to take a view of his ox-ship a day or two since. He is truly a monster of the bovine race. To me his bulk exceeded my anticipations, though some others assert they were disappointed in his size, having got their imagination too much raised, and not seeing him with other cattle. Being provided with proper instruments, I took several measures of him, which, for your satisfaction, I will here set down. They were made with the ox standing in his natural position, on level ground, and will be found, I believe, to vary but very little from the truth—if any thing, they will fall short:—Height 5 ft 6 in; girth 9 ft 3 in; girth in largest place 10 ft 9 in; extreme length from end of nose 9 ft 9 in; extreme length on the back from brow of head 8 ft 9 in; length of head from brow to tip of nose 2 ft 8 in; length of body from the neck 7 ft 7 in; depth through the breast 3 ft 7 in; thickness through do 2 ft 8 in; length of horns 2 ft; greatest distance of do 2 ft 7 in; girth round the neck in smallest place 4 ft 2 in; girth round the thigh 3 ft 7 in; girth round the knee 1 ft 7 in; girth round the leg in smallest place 11 in; outer distance between flanks 2 ft 2 in.

This ox is every way well proportioned, thick set and short limbed. It will be seen that his height is not so great as might at first be imagined—nor indeed is it equal to that of some other oxen that have been raised in New England.—Mr. Gibson, of Franconstown, had a pair several years since, whose height exceeded six feet. The Deerfield ox, if I mistake not was also nearly 6 feet high. But in weight the ox Olympus has no precedence on this side of the Atlantic. His huge volume weighs 3,500 lbs., and is every day being fast added unto. We can't help thinking that a monster he would be in a few years more, should he continue growing as fast as he has done for a year or two past.—*National Eagle, Claremont, N. H.*

From the National Intelligencer.

LOCO-FOCO, ANCIENT AND MODERN. Gentlemen—If you have a spare space in your columns, I should take it as a favor, the insertion of the following historical facts, and the comparison and comments which present themselves to my mind. In the fourteenth century, during the minority of Richard II. Lingard says, that there was a deep and extensive ferment among the people, and that by union they set at defiance the severity of the law. These are his words: "To this resistance they were encouraged by the diffusion of the doctrines of Wycliffe, that the right of property was founded in grace, and that no man, who was by sin a traitor to his God, could be entitled to the services of others. At the same time, numerous preachers sedulously inculcated the natural equality of mankind, and the tyranny of artificial distinctions; and the poorer classes, still smarting under the exactions of the late reign (that of Edward III.) were, by the imposition of the new tax, wound up to a pitch of madness. Thus the materials had been prepared; it required but a spark to set the whole community in a blaze." Another fact; "John Ball, a seditious and heterodox preacher, placed himself at the head of one hundred thousand insurgents, and harangued them at Blackheath in a discourse, which had for text, "When Adam delved and Eve span, Who was then the gentleman?" and in which he declared the above doctrines, and recommended the murder of the Archbishop, the earls and barons, the judges, lawyers, and quest-mongers. His hearers made him, in spite of his own doctrines, Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of the realm."

The moral I would deduce from these facts is simple. Knowing that there is at present amongst us a set of men, yelping *Loco-Focos*, and who support the religious party excepted, the doctrines of the fourteenth century rebels. I think that the public ought to be made aware of the pernicious and insidious character of their designs, and, by learning from history and experience the sad and horrible effects proceeding from such mad opinions, render these *Loco-Focos* impotent for evil. It is useless for us to close our ears and eyes upon the truth. A strong, growing, and dangerous faction is being formed in this country, which, if not checked by law and energy, will renew the dreadful scene of the minority of the weak and unfortunate King Richard. Their object appears to be to draw down to their own level whatever is above them—to render what is settled unsettled and fluctuating, and under the specious guise of love of country and natural rights, to unite power and riches in their own hands, and then, like the Blackheath insurgents, make some foul and bloody denouement the "Archbishop" of their orgies. God grant that, in these ominous and distressing times, those who have the power and the influence may prove true to their trust, and that the voice of a prescient and patriotic press may be heard throughout the land, exposing the monster of anarchy and insubordination in all its naked deformity, and crushing the corrupting and designing leaders of the party by the tones of truth and sound sense.

A CONSERVATIVE.

SEPT. 15, 1837.

General Jackson's printer made a small mistake when he was setting up the types of his famous Message. Instead of reading "the object of this experiment is to introduce hard money," read "the object of this experiment is to introduce hard times."

Mr. Wise, in ridiculing the sub-treasury system in the House the other day, oppositely compared the conduct of the administration to that of the famous Fanny Wright, who, after denouncing matrimony in the most unmeasured terms, was next heard of as Mad. Darusmont. So this government was for a divorce from all banks; but the next thing heard of would be its marriage to the worst bank on the face of the earth—a Treasury Bank.—*Boston Atlas.*

Mr. Rives stated in his speech, that there were 100,000 officers employed in the collection, custody and disbursement of the public money, under the sub-treasury system in France. Well was it remarked by a French satirist that the public money, in the manner of its collection in that country, was like a lump of butter passed from hand to hand, each of which was greased with a portion, until at last, when it reached its destination, (the Treasury) there was scarcely any left. We do not like the idea of greasing so many fingers with the Treasury butter.

CONGRESSIONAL.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BOSTON ATLAS.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.

In the House, Mr. Wise's resolution touching the Florida War, came up as the unfinished business. McKay of North Carolina, chairman of the military committee, stated that from authority, that seven millions had already been spent upon the war, exclusive of a vast amount of unsettled claims. He moved to postpone the further consideration of the resolution to the first Monday of December. The motion was opposed by Sherrod Williams and by J. Q. Adams. Mr. A. accused the administration of a design to smother an inquiry which they did not dare openly to resist.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union. Pickens moved to take up the Sub-Treasury bill. Garland moved to strike out all after the enacting clause, and to insert the bill formerly offered by him.

Hoffman of New York, took the floor, and commenced a most eloquent speech against the bill. He replied to Pickens, and defended the laborer of the north against his atrocious slanders—(for he had put them beneath the level of the Southern slaves.) He then addressed himself to the bill. He objected to it, on the ground that it was against the spirit and substance of the constitution, tending to raise the government to a station above the people and independent of them. That it tended in a most remarkable degree to increase the power of the government, and to concentrate all authority in the hands of the executive. That, in a financial point of view it was wholly unsafe, altogether more unsafe, than the agency of banks; and in support of this measure he quoted the opinions of Polk, and Cumberbund, expressed in very strong terms to this very point, when the deposit bank system was under discussion.

He then entered into a splendid defence of the credit system, and he traced back all the existing calamities of the commercial classes to the political schemes and operation of executive authority. He called the attention of the House to the fact, that under the gubernatorial administration of Van Buren and his successors, in the State of New York, since 1829, all the existing banks of that State, (with but five or six exceptions) had come into existence; and existence so guarded and arranged, that it had secured the political ascendancy to that gentleman and his friends, a system by means of which he had mounted to the presidential chair; and now scornfully and without a moment's warning, he kicked down the ladder by which he had ascended, careless which of his friends and flatterers it might crush and destroy.

In the Senate, Webster presented a number of petitions from various parts of the Northern and Eastern States remonstrating against the admission of Texas into the Union. It was not his original intention, he said, to have presented these petitions at this session, but as a correspondence had been published, the subject was now properly before the country.

Grundy moved to discharge the committee on the Judiciary from the further consideration of that portion of the Message of the President of the U. S., which relates to the subject of a Bankrupt Law.

Benton made some remarks in which he advocated the passage of a Bankrupt Law. Crittenden followed, and argued against the constitutionality of such a law.

The subject was then passed over by general consent.

Southard submitted a resolution calling on the Secretary of War for information as to what had been done under the provisions of the Cherokee Treaty of 1815.

A bill to revoke the charters of the Banks of the District of Columbia was read a third time and passed. The title having been changed to read "A bill to regulate the currency of the District of Columbia."

OCTOBER 13.

In the House, a bill providing payment for horses lost in the military service of the United States, (i. e. the Florida war), was taken up, and after considerable discussion the bill was read a third time, and passed to be enacted.

Here goes an additional million or more towards the Florida war;—and this is but the beginning of expenditures,—since this bill provides for only a single class of cases.

The bill from the Senate, authorizing Mrs. Madison to publish abroad, for her own benefit, the "Debates on the Federal Constitution," purchased by Congress, was read a third time and passed to be enacted.

The bill from the Senate "to suppress the circulation of small notes in the District of Columbia" was read a second time and on motion of Mr. Harlan of Kentucky, it was laid on the table.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, and Legare proceeded to deliver an able and interesting speech against the sub-treasury bill. He argued, that the acquisition of wealth (which some gentlemen on this floor declaimed against so violently,) lay at the very bottom of modern civilization. That we lived indeed in a new era; an era in which the standard of comfort was constantly rising, poverty disappearing, war going out of fashion; while the peaceful arts of trade, of production, of acquisition, were diffusing a new beauty, a new splendor, a new enjoyment, over the whole face of society. This was the tendency of all modern ideas,—but the plans broached here, to contract commerce, to limit credit, to go back to gold and silver currency, were in direct opposition to these tendencies of the age; and were a return to the spirit in which Lycurgus legislated, when he prescribed an iron money system for his republic of Sparta.

The Senate proceeded to elect a President pro tempore, (the Vice President, according to custom, having vacated his seat.) The result of the ballot was as follows: King, of Alabama, 23; Niles 1; King, of Georgia, 1; Southard, 2.

King makes a very good presiding officer, and it is a great pity that the Vice President, who is a terrible bungling fellow, would not leave him to fill the Chair in toto.

The "Florida Horse Bill" from the House, was taken up and passed to be enacted.

The Senate then took up the subject of the corporation bankrupt law, and Southard is making a very able speech on the subject.